



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

June 2, 2023

OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL AND  
INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

The Honorable James Comer  
Chairman  
Committee on Oversight and Accountability  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

On behalf of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, I am writing today to provide an initial response to your letter dated May 18, 2023, regarding the Agency's telework and remote work policies.

As a public health Agency, EPA's highest priority is protecting the health and environment of all Americans. One of EPA's greatest strengths is its people, and we rely on those people to accomplish the Agency's critical mission of protecting human health and the environment. EPA remained operational throughout the pandemic and Agency staff rose to the unique challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

During the pandemic—under the prior administration and this one—the Agency continually evaluated options to provide flexibility to our staff so that they could make decisions to fulfill their work obligations while taking into account personal circumstances and health considerations. In March 2020, the Agency—like the vast majority of public and private employers who were able to do so—began a maximum telework policy and encouraged all eligible employees to telework. The Agency also increased the work hours available and allowed for extended work breaks during the day for those on flexible work schedules. At the same time, some EPA employees stayed onsite throughout the pandemic because their jobs required them to be physically at the workplace. The Agency's goal was to provide appropriate flexibility to the extent possible so that EPA employees could perform their official duties while also meeting their responsibilities for the health and welfare of themselves and their families.

Over a year ago, EPA began the process of bringing more employees back into the workplace while still offering flexibilities like telework and expanded work hours. As a model employer, and similar to other large organizations in government and in the private sector, EPA now operates in a hybrid environment, with employees who work on-site, remotely, or in some hybrid capacity.

The EPA recognizes the importance of Congress's interests in obtaining information necessary to perform its legitimate oversight functions. We remain intent on cooperating with you and Committee staff to provide you the information you need, and to engaging in the accommodation process. We have a search underway to collect information responsive to your request, and we will produce additional information to you as expeditiously as possible.

If you have any further questions, please contact me, or your staff may contact Kristien Knapp in EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at [Knapp.Kristien@epa.gov](mailto:Knapp.Kristien@epa.gov).

Sincerely,



Tim Del Monico  
Associate Administrator

cc: The Honorable Jamie Raskin, Ranking Member

The Honorable Pete Sessions, Chairman  
Subcommittee on Government Operations and the Federal Workforce

The Honorable Kweisi Mfume, Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Government Operations and the Federal Workforce

The Honorable Glenn Grothman, Chairman  
Subcommittee on National Security, the Border, and Foreign Affairs

The Honorable Robert Garcia, Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on National Security, the Border, and Foreign Affairs

The Honorable Lisa McClain, Chairwoman  
Subcommittee on Health Care and Financial Services

The Honorable Katie Porter, Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Health Care and Financial Services

The Honorable Lauren Boebert, Member of Congress  
The Honorable Gary Palmer, Member of Congress  
The Honorable Clay Higgins, Member of Congress  
The Honorable Andy Biggs, Member of Congress  
The Honorable Jake LaTurner, Member of Congress  
The Honorable Byron Donalds, Member of Congress  
The Honorable Kelly Armstrong, Member of Congress  
The Honorable William R. Timmons, IV, Member of Congress  
The Honorable Tim Burchett, Member of Congress  
The Honorable Marjorie Taylor Greene, Member of Congress  
The Honorable Russell Fry, Member of Congress  
The Honorable Anna Paulina Luna, Member of Congress  
The Honorable Chuck Edwards, Member of Congress  
The Honorable Nick Langworthy, Member of Congress  
The Honorable Eric Burlison, Member of Congress